Travis
Drowning
Provo
River

THOMAS AND MARY A. OAKS BURGESS (BROWN)

Thomas Burgess (Brown) was Samuel Israel Burgess (Tom Brown). He got into some trouble as a young man and ran away and changed his name, so was known as Tom Brown, but his name was Samuel Israel Burgess. He was born September 24, 1852, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and died April 1, 1909, at Vernal. His father was Samuel Israel Burgess, who was born in England in 1821. His mother was Miranda Hartwell. She was born in 1828 and she and Samuel were married December 12, 1850. Mary A. Oaks Burgess (Brown) was born November 30, 1862, daughter of Hyrum and Sarah Ann Woods Oaks. Mary died in August, 1930, at Vernal.

Mary Oaks spent her early years living on a homestead at the mouth of Daniel Canyon.

When she and Tom were married they lived in Heber a few years and later moved to a farm in Daniel Canyon, close to where the Strawberry canal headgate is now located. They raised all kinds of vegetables, also watermelons and peanuts. Small fruits were also grown. The Indians bothered them a lot for their garden produce and food.

They were the parents of nine children: Cleo Ann, Sara Miranda, Mary LaVina, Julia, Laura Elizabeth, Mabel, Hazel, Hyrum Sterling, and Cora Abigail.

Julia and Laura (twins) drowned in the Provo River when Mary was driving across it in a light wagon in the month of March. The high water floated the bed off the running gears, it tipped over, and they were all in the water. The children were buried in Heber Cemetery.

Thomas and Mary left Daniel to go to make their home in Vernal in 1897, where Tom died, and Mary was a widow many years. She was unusually gifted in the making of quilts and all sorts of fancy work, which won her recognition in several states of the West and took a number of prizes at various exhibits.

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along Lake Creek. In 1877 James bought Sidney Worsleg's property on Center Creek, and a year later he joined with the other new settlers on the reservoir project.[6]

The first problem was locating the dam sites for the reservoirs. The dams could not be put on the creek itself because of the attitudes of the older settlers. Instead, they were located off to one side of the stream on various flats in the canyon. The reservoirs were then fed by lateral ditches running from the creeks. Each spring the annual run-off of melted snow from the mountain sides glutted the little streams, and it was this high water that the new settlers wanted to conserve until the fall when the creek level dropped once more. It was later found that not only the high water, but also the entire creek water before the irrigation period began and after

[6]The Journal of James Lindsay, MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1920), p. 8.

Trial Lake